

**Indiana's Game: The Rise and Decline of High School Basketball in Indiana**

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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Muncie, Indiana

April 2007

Expected Graduation: December 2007

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Edmonds', is written over a horizontal line.

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## Abstract

Although the game of basketball was invented in Massachusetts in 1891, many consider Indiana as its place of development. Since being introduced to the state in 1893, basketball and Indiana was a near-perfect match. For various reasons analyzed in this thesis, basketball became a key fixture in Hoosier society. Many towns and communities across the state began identifying themselves by their local high school basketball team, and as time went by in the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century a sort of 'Hoosier Hysteria' took hold of the state. Indiana became basketball-crazed, as massive high school gymnasiums were built and hoards of fans traveled to watch their local team play. But these 'glory days' have come and passed. This paper investigates reasons why Indiana high school basketball has declined in popularity among the state's population. Not only does this thesis show how Indiana became known for its high school basketball in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s, but it also begins to explain why high school basketball is becoming less important for Hoosier citizens. The last aim of this paper is to look towards the future of Indiana high school basketball. Using the story of the 2006-2007 Muncie Central Bearcats, for which I served as an assistant coach, this paper examines prospects for a return to glory for high school basketball in Indiana.

### Acknowledgements

- I want to thank Dr. Anthony Edmonds for advising me through this project. His direction on writing this paper was great appreciated, as was his editing and suggestions. I could not have chosen a better advisor.
- I also want to thank my grandfather and father for instilling in me a burning desire to be part of Hoosier Hysteria. It was through them that I too became basketball-crazed.

As the senior captain on my high school basketball team, Columbus East, it was my main goal to win the school's first sectional title in seven seasons. But now, late in the fourth quarter of our sectional semifinal match-up against the Bloomington South Panthers, the possibilities for realizing this dream were looking bleak. To make matters worse, with just under a minute remaining, the whistle blew, the buzzer sounded, and the crowd rose to its feet to cheer as I had just committed my fifth and final foul. The cheering was muffled as I fought back tears and made my way to our team's bench on the other end of the floor. Distraught, I knew this would be my last game in an Olympian jersey; it would be my last game in front of the Columbus East fans. More importantly, this would be my last game as an Indiana high school basketball player. What I had known for the past four seasons was now coming to a close, signed, sealed, and delivered in an 88-78 loss. As I sat there watching the final seconds tick off the clock, I couldn't help but cry out in dejection, knowing that I would never put on a jersey again. I had fallen short of my dreams. And now, a little over four years removed from that scene, I still long for Indiana high school basketball. The truth is I don't think I'll ever get over losing it.

A variation of this scene is played out for thousands of Indiana high school basketball players every year. Since its inception in 1911, the Indiana high school basketball state tournament has claimed the tears of many seniors playing their last game. From its beginnings until now, players and their fans have lived and died by the bounce of the ball and the sound of the net. Indiana is a basketball-crazed state. The popular saying goes, "In 49 states it's just basketball. But this is Indiana," and throughout the history of the game this quotation rings true to the core. From the creation of the largest

high school gymnasiums in the United States and their subsequent capacity crowds to the development of Hoosier basketball legends, Indiana has been described by many as the Mecca for basketball in this country. Basketball has always just seemed *different* in Indiana. It has always been more important, more valued. I mean, what else is there to do in the middle of a cornfield but pick up a ball and shoot some hoops?

Though the perception by outsiders may still be that Indiana is a hotbed for hoops junkies, the reality within the state is that high school basketball is dying. For whatever the reason, Indiana's passion for the game is on the decline. Many blame high school basketball's decline in popularity on class basketball, saying that the game was given its death sentence in 1996 when the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) voted to trade the state's fabled single-class tournament in for a devalued four-class version that crowns four champions in one day. Others argue that the events of 1996 were not the sole reason for the decline in game attendance and overall enthusiasm but that high school basketball has been on the decline since its heyday in the '50s, '60s, and '70s. Statistics back this second assertion, as an estimated 1.55 million fans attended the state tournament in 1962, far more than the 786,024 fans who attended the tournament in 1997, the last year of the single-class tournament.<sup>1</sup> These numbers, along with the fact that the state's population actually grew during those 35 years, are evidence that Indiana high school basketball was on the decline well before class basketball took hold.

My argument falls somewhere in-between these two camps. Class basketball was the figurative straw that broke the camel's back. It was not the sole reason for high school basketball's loss in popularity, but it surely expedited the process. The fact is high school

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<sup>1</sup> *Insight Broadband*, 12 Apr. 2007 <<http://home.insightbb.com/html-jsp/photoPicture.php?photoID=16-870&personID=11386>>.

basketball has been rapidly falling on the list of priorities for Hoosiers since the glory days of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. There are simply too many other things to do. I would argue these things are less meaningful than what many call “Hoosier Hysteria,” but the collective attention of Indiana’s citizens has been pulled in many directions away from basketball. What was once the thing to do on Friday and Saturday nights for students, parents, and community members alike, has now become the fourth or fifth option on the list.

This thesis is multi-faceted. Not only do I wish to outline the reasons for high school basketball’s decline since its glory days, but I hope to show why and how Indiana basketball was once the most important activity this state had to offer its citizens. I want to show why high school gymnasiums with capacities topping out at the absurdly high 9,314 (New Castle Chrysler Fieldhouse)<sup>2</sup> were routinely filled to the brim. Finally, I want to use my experience coaching the Muncie Central basketball team this year to show that high school basketball is still held dear by the players who play the game and the coaches who coach it. To these players and coaches the game still matters most. This is an aspect of high school basketball that I do not believe has fallen on hard times.

My passion for Indiana high school basketball goes so far that I have often been caught saying, “I wish I lived in the ’50s.” The painful truth of the demise of high school basketball in Indiana has hit me as hard as anyone. Growing up in a family of basketball maniacs, I come by this trait honestly. The only thing most of us die-hards around the state have is history. And it is with this history that I begin.

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<sup>2</sup> Bob Williams, *Hoosier Hysteria!* (South Bend, Indiana: Hardwood Press, 1997), 317.

## Indiana High School Basketball: The Beginnings

When looking at a list of famous Hoosiers, one can't help but remark about its inordinate number of basketball stars. Featuring the likes of John Wooden, Oscar Robertson, and Larry Bird, a list of Indiana basketball legends is a veritable who's who among the game's greats. From the start of high school basketball in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Indiana has been a hotbed for basketball stars. But the reasoning behind Indiana's moniker of basketball-crazy doesn't stop there. For decades in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, communities poured into gymnasiums around the state. From the small towns that mark rural Indiana to the high population areas of Gary, Fort Wayne, Evansville, and Indianapolis, fans fought over seats for ballgames. For the players, making one's high school team was a badge of honor. Playing year round, through rain, snow, or sleet, almost every young Hoosier worked towards their dream of making the high school team. For the fans, basketball was a religion of sorts. No one questioned the weekend's activity during the winter, taking it for granted that the ballgame would take center stage. Towns and communities gathered around their "heroes," cheering them on in victory and defeat. A sense of pride could be gained by a single win, and towns would collectively cry out in mourning after a loss in the state tournament.

Though basketball began in Massachusetts, the game's inventor, James Naismith, summed Hoosier Hysteria up best in 1939 when he said, "Basketball really had its origin in Indiana, which remains today the center of the sport."<sup>3</sup> First introduced to the state in

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<sup>3</sup> Philip M. Hoose, *Hoosiers: The Fabulous Basketball Life of Indiana* (New York: Vintage Books, 1986), 10.



1893 when “Nicholas C. McKay, a protégé of Naismith, brought the game to Indiana,”<sup>4</sup> basketball has developed over time. From decade to decade since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the game has evolved, starting with peach baskets and ending with three-pointers. But why did basketball put such a stranglehold on Indiana? Why not Ohio, Michigan, or Illinois? What makes Indiana the hotbed for hoops?

The IHSAA gives one such answer to these questions. In a book celebrating their 100-year anniversary, *Play On*, they suggest that “Basketball and Indiana were made for each other. With a native Protestant population greater than the population of most other states in the Midwest, Indiana was amply populated with YMCAs, which disseminated the new sport (basketball) to the general population.”<sup>5</sup> Whether this is the impetus or not, basketball struck a chord with the population of Indiana. With 34 percent of the Hoosier population as citing membership to a church in 1906, these Christians saw basketball as a way to socialize their youngsters by instilling strong moral values through the game.<sup>6</sup>

Aside from the moral values the sport offered, youngsters were also able to learn about hard work, dedication, and passion. These traits translated over into a year-long obsession with the sport. Basketball’s importance in Indiana can only be understood by driving through the state and seeing that almost every young boy “has some type of basketball goal on his barn, garage, etc. These boys . . . play basketball *every day* of the year . . . They seem to thrive on playing basketball . . . it seems to be a natural instinct for

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<sup>4</sup> William Gildea, *Where the Game Matters Most* (Chicago: Triumph Books, 2000), 8.

<sup>5</sup> *Play On: Celebrating 100 Years of High School Sports in Indiana* (Indianapolis: Cranfill and Company, 2003), 34.

<sup>6</sup> *Play On* 34.

them.”<sup>7</sup> Whether it was in the rain, snow, or sleet, young Indiana boys developed their skills through hours and hours of hard work and dedication.

Basketball quickly caught on in all parts of Indiana. Starting in a YMCA in Crawfordsville, it soon found its way into high schools around the state. For multiple reasons, schools found basketball to be a benefit to their students. Not only did the sport encourage fitness and teamwork, but it also only required five players, which made it “the ideal sport for smaller schools.”<sup>8</sup> Much more accommodating than football (which required eleven participants per team) to Hoosiers living in predominately rural areas, basketball also only required “an enclosed barn with a wooden floor and peach baskets at both ends.”<sup>9</sup> In Indiana, barns were not hard to come by.

And then there was the agricultural component. Indiana was geared around the fall time harvest and the springtime planting season. Many high school boys were expected to work on the family farm after school. Basketball fit in well with this tradition, as “practice started in the late fall, soon after the harvest was completed” and “the season ended in late March, just before spring planting began.”<sup>10</sup> Basketball fit the schedule of Indiana to perfection. The winter had always been a down time on the farm, which allowed basketball to garner all of the attention. Basketball and Indiana was truly a match made in heaven.

Famed Indiana high school basketball historian Herbert Schwomeyer defines Hoosier Hysteria by saying, “There just isn’t anything quite like it. Word descriptions have been attempted by some of the best in the business, but until you have been

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<sup>7</sup> John F. Rooney, *A Geography of American Sport* (Philippines: Addison-Wesley, 1974), 165.

<sup>8</sup> *Play On* 36.

<sup>9</sup> *Play On* 36.

<sup>10</sup> *Play On* 36.

personally involved as a participant, you wouldn't believe it anyway."<sup>11</sup> Schwomeyer qualifies participation in Indiana basketball as not only playing or coaching, but also includes the "spectators and team supporters as well."<sup>12</sup> From the very beginnings of the sport in Indiana, basketball attracted quite a high level of participation according to Schwomeyer's definition. Communities from around the state flocked to their local gymnasium (barn) to cheer on their team. A sense of community pride swelled throughout the winter, culminating with the state finals, first played in Bloomington in 1911. At the first high school basketball state finals 1,200 fans packed into Indiana University's Assembly Hall (the original, built in 1896 with a listed capacity of 600)<sup>13</sup> paying 25 cents to see Crawfordsville beat Lebanon 27-18.<sup>14</sup> The Hoosier Hysteria had begun.

Advancements in technology allowing for better transportation and communication spurred "Indiana's game" in the next 25 years. Paved highway mileage in Indiana increased dramatically during the 1920s and 1930s, culminating in "more than half of the 10,100 miles of roads in Indiana"<sup>15</sup> being paved with concrete or asphalt by 1940. This allowed an impressive increase to occur in the attendance at high school basketball games. For fans who could not attend the game, whether it was because they lacked the transportation or because tickets were sold out, the next best thing was to listen to the game on the radio at home or at the local gathering place. The *Franklin Evening Star* reported in December 1920 one such account. "Almost as thrilling as watching the

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<sup>11</sup> Herb Schwomeyer, *Hoosier Hysteria*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (Greenfield, Indiana: Mitchell-Fleming, 1985), 1.

<sup>12</sup> Schwomeyer 1.

<sup>13</sup> *Indiana Hoosier Athletics*, 25 Mar. 2007 <[http://www.cstv.com/auto\\_pdf/p\\_hotos/s\\_schools/ind/sports/m-baskbl/auto\\_pdf/06expmbbhistory](http://www.cstv.com/auto_pdf/p_hotos/s_schools/ind/sports/m-baskbl/auto_pdf/06expmbbhistory)>.

<sup>14</sup> *Play On* 42.

<sup>15</sup> *Play On* 50.

real game at Martinsville was the watching of the electric basketball court installed at the Opera House. From the time that the first purple light flashed at five minutes after 8:00 p.m. until the close of the game, the crowd was wild.”<sup>16</sup> Basketball continued to grow in popularity around the state, as more fans were able to travel to the game or listen on the radio.

During this time, many individuals and teams caught the attention of the basketball-crazed state, adding to the lore that was becoming Indiana high school basketball. The “Franklin Wonder Five” was one such team, who won three straight state championships from 1920 to 1922. No team would complete such a feat until the Marion Giants in the mid-to-late 1980s. A mere decade after that first state championship in 1911, “The Wonder Five were the New York Yankees of Indiana high school basketball, and their appearance in the state finals three years running caused such a demand for tickets that the IHSAA was forced to move the site of the championship to the Indianapolis Coliseum.”<sup>17</sup> An astonishing 12,500 fans, more than 10 times the number of spectators who attended the first state finals just 11 years before, attended Franklin’s third straight championship.

The Wonder Five were such a spectacle in 1920 and 1921 that they often played their games in the Franklin College gymnasium, which seated 1,000 fans, double their high school’s 500. As a result, the local school board decided to build a new gymnasium, one that would seat some 3,000 spectators.<sup>18</sup> This development was the first of many building projects that would mark Indiana with huge gymnasiums in the decades to come, making Indiana the finest place in the world to watch a high school basketball contest.

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<sup>16</sup> *Play On* 51.

<sup>17</sup> *Play On* 48.

<sup>18</sup> *Play On* 48.

This statement was validated in 1925 when the game's creator, James Naismith attended the states finals in front of 15,000 screaming fans and said, "The possibilities of basketball as seen there were a revelation to me."<sup>19</sup> What Naismith wasn't aware of was that Indiana basketball had just begun growing in popularity.

Along with the Wonder Five, Indiana's first dynasty, the early days featured many individuals whose names would shine brightly throughout history. One such luminary is John Wooden. Born in 1910, Wooden grew up under modest conditions on a farm outside of Martinsville in rural Morgan County. Taught the basics of the game early on, Wooden quickly became one of the states stars. While playing for the Martinsville Artesians from 1926 to 1928 Wooden and his fellow 'Arties' "won the state championship once and made the championship game three times in all."<sup>20</sup> Going on from Martinsville, Wooden led Purdue University to the National Championship during his senior season in 1932 and was a three-time All-American.

Wooden is best known for his coaching days. After graduating from Purdue, Wooden taught English and coached basketball in South Bend. Soon thereafter, he received the head coaching position at Indiana State, and in 1948 made the move to California and the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA). Though he experienced modest success early on, Wooden would go on to win 10 national championships in the span of 12 years (7 in a row at one point) and retire in 1975. His coaching record of 10 NCAA basketball championships far outnumbers that of any other coach in the history of college basketball.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Hoose 44.

<sup>20</sup> Gildea xiii.

<sup>21</sup> *Coach John Wooden*, 6 Apr. 2007 <<http://www.coachjohnwooden.com>>.

Led by the Wonder Five and Wooden, paved roads and radio transmissions, Indiana basketball was here to stay by the 1930s. In the '30s and '40s larger and larger high school gymnasiums began to spring up all around the state and attendance numbers leaped to historical highs. To accommodate such a boost in attendance, the state finals moved to the Butler Fieldhouse in 1928. Each March, 15,000 fans attended the state finals, held in a venue that was the largest basketball arena in the world until the late 1950s. Started by teams and individuals that have stood the test of time, Indiana high school basketball became the state's passion from the very beginning of the sport. What would occur in the coming decades would make Hoosier Hysteria into something truly special that had the whole nation talking.

### **Indiana High School Basketball: The Glory Days**

Following its strong beginnings in the early 1900s, Indiana high school basketball grew to full-fledged passion by the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1950s and 1960s remain the heyday of the sport, when the population of Indiana began to grow following World War II and the entire state seemed focused on the winter months and the state's one true love, high school basketball. Lacking a professional sports team like Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio (the Cubs, White Sox, Tigers, and Reds), Indiana was able to focus all of its attention on the local high school basketball team. The 1950s and 1960s were also a time in which there were very few sanctioned IHSAA sports (there were none for girls at this time). This allowed for the entire focus of the state to be on boys' basketball. In Indiana, "high school basketball reigns supreme as the winter entertainment attraction,

perhaps because there has been little else from which to choose.”<sup>22</sup> We mustn’t discount the fact that Indiana is (and was, especially during the heyday of high school basketball) a state primarily made up of secluded rural communities. Basketball was simply the #1, 2, and 3 options on the list of things to do during the winter.

The number of high schools participating in the IHSAA state basketball tournament ballooned to 805 in 1936, and steadied at between 700 and 800 for the duration of the 1950s.<sup>23</sup> School and community pride swelled during the winter months, and the restructuring of the tournament in 1935, which called for sixty-four sectionals, sixteen regionals (four teams each), four semi-states (four teams each), and a state finals (consisting of the final four teams), allowed for a community to follow their team from the local area, onto the regional area, and finally onto the state.<sup>24</sup> Improvements in the automobile allowed caravans of fans to travel the state cheering on their boys, decorating their cars with their favorite player’s name and number. Towns and communities soon became recognized by their school and mascot, and their identity was quickly being determined by their basketball team.

The phenomenon of community identity is crucial in understanding Indiana basketball. For many decades in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, small towns and cities in Indiana identified themselves solely with their high school basketball team. It was in these locations that “basketball appears to thrive best . . . where incomes and education levels are relatively low, and where the sport may very well be viewed as a social necessity.”<sup>25</sup> In such places “Excellent teams and players create more interest and excitement and

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<sup>22</sup> Rooney 165.

<sup>23</sup> Schwomeyer 216.

<sup>24</sup> *Play On* 67.

<sup>25</sup> Rooney 165.

produce local heroes with whom the town can identify.”<sup>26</sup> This identity goes on year-round, as the local barbershop and other public facilities double as places where discussions concerning the fortunes of the team can take place. In these communities, the variability of winter weather “is bad enough to have driven most people indoors,”<sup>27</sup> causing basketball to take center stage throughout the cold-season. As time went by, small towns and communities developed more and more of a collective past, one chock-full of well known teams and players. It was through this shared history that a growing community identity blossomed.

In 1954, the identity of one small Indiana town was created when Milan High School, with an enrollment of 162 (less than half was male), put the state on its ear by playing Muncie Central for the state’s most coveted prize. Forged through the classic David versus Goliath story, Milan defeated those mighty Bearcats and created an identity that has lasted ever since. The monumental 32-30 victory was the result of a last second shot by one of Indiana high school basketball’s most famous names, Bobby Plump. Plump’s shot gave Milan the title and gave Indiana its first – and really only – true underdog state champion by defeating the much larger and supposedly powerful Bearcats that season. In a true display of Hoosier Hysteria, a caravan of cars followed the Indians back from Indianapolis to their home in southeastern Indiana after the championship tilt. It is estimated that “anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 people” jammed into tiny Milan, but others say that “probably 100,000 said they attended the celebration.”<sup>28</sup> Numbers like these only exist in places where hysteria reigns.

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<sup>26</sup> Rooney 164-5.

<sup>27</sup> Rooney 169.

<sup>28</sup> *Play On* 64.



Based on *Hoosier Hysteria*'s most famous event, the Hollywood film *Hoosiers* was created to depict the Milan Miracle and display the true nature of Indiana's passion for basketball. One of the movie's characters, Myra Fleener, accurately describes the positive sentiments given to a basketball star in Indiana during this time period. Talking of the fictional team's star, Jimmy Chitwood, Fleener says, "You know, a basketball hero around here is treated like a god . . . you become one by putting a leather ball through an iron hoop."<sup>29</sup> According to Fleener, Milan produced many gods in the eyes of Hoosiers during that run to the state title in '54. The state became frenzied that year, and the story of Milan has since survived history and is now one of the state's most well known historical events.

With the creation of the interstate system during the Eisenhower era, cities and towns in Indiana became more connected than ever.<sup>30</sup> Improvements in the automobile enabled more fans to travel to basketball games, where the gymnasiums of the past were becoming too small. What started with the creation of a new high school gym in Franklin in 1921 became a full-fledged battle among schools to create the largest and finest gymnasium in the state. What was at stake with these projects? Schools boasting the largest gyms were given the right to host the sectional tournament, an enviable position given the number and strength of rivalries in each county. If the gym was large enough, a school might even be privileged to host the regional tournament. This honor not only led to a sense of pride for the community, but it gave the home team a better chance for advancement through the state tournament.

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<sup>29</sup> *Internet Movie Database*, 6 Apr. 2007 <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0091217/quotes>>.

<sup>30</sup> *U.S. Department of Transportation*, 6 Apr. 2007 <<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/interstate/homepage.cfm>>.

The size of Indiana gymnasiums is fabled throughout the country. Boasting fifteen of the top sixteen largest high school gyms in the country (and the top 6 spots), Indiana is known for its “Hoosier shrines.” Following World War II, according to *Hoosier Hysteria!* by Bob Williams, “the town of Huntingburg with a population of 5,000 built a gym with a seating capacity of 6,214 in order to gain home-court advantage in the sectionals that were being played at nearby Jasper.”<sup>31</sup> Another school, tired of competing in the Muncie regional, New Castle, began construction in the late 1950s on a gym that would put the whole state to shame. What is now known as the “Largest and Finest High School Fieldhouse in the World” was finished in November 1959. Built into the ground with an astonishing capacity of 9,314, the New Castle Chrysler Fieldhouse is “the largest high school gym in the nation.”<sup>32</sup> Soon thereafter, in 1961, Anderson (a conference rival of both Muncie Central and New Castle) completed what is known as “the Wigwam” with a capacity of 8,996, making it the second largest high school gym in the country.

Many states marvel at the size of these Indiana high school “monuments,” but the fact remains that during Indiana high school basketball’s heyday, these gyms were filled to capacity. Revenues were substantial for most schools, as the number of season ticket holders became outlandish. Even after the glory days were supposedly over, Anderson had 5,875 season ticket holders for the 1984 season.<sup>33</sup> Bob Williams best explains the reason for such large gyms: “In a state where basketball is looked at with such ardor and passion it’s only natural that the arenas where the games are played would follow suit.”<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Williams 312.

<sup>32</sup> Williams 312.

<sup>33</sup> Hoose 30.

<sup>34</sup> Williams 316.

The heyday of Indiana high school basketball was clearly the 1950s and 1960s. With the population boom and advancements in the road system and the automobile, more and more fans came out to the games. Schools all around the state glistened with school pride every basketball season, culminating in the month-long state tournament that brought the entire state to its knees. Schools were cancelled in Indianapolis during its sixteen team sectional tournament, allowing for all the participants (players and fans alike) to make it to the Butler Fieldhouse (later Hinkle Fieldhouse, in 1966) to cheer on their team.

The Indianapolis sectional was attended by thousands of fans each year, but no team out of the state's capital had claimed the state championship trophy until the Crispus Attucks Tigers won it in 1955. In doing so, Attucks also became the first all-black school to win a state championship in the entire nation. Led by future professional star and Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson, Attucks also won the title in 1956, becoming the first team in Indiana history to win the title after going undefeated for the entire season. When discussing this feat, Robertson plays it up by saying, "Remember that Indiana is the basketball-craziest state in the nation, and there is a major college basketball prospect on just about every high school team."<sup>35</sup> Robertson and the Attucks Tigers combined to win forty-five straight games over his junior and senior years, a record that stood until Lawrence North recently won fifty straight games from early 2005 to late 2006.

The 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s witnessed Indiana high school basketball at its peak. Fans came out in droves to fill up the largest high school gymnasiums in the world, and communities gathered around their team during March in quest of the coveted state championship. These decades saw the rise of television as well. Folks around the state

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<sup>35</sup> Oscar Robertson, *The Big O* (Emmaus, Pennsylvania: Rodale, 2003), 57.

who couldn't make it to Indy for the finals, or who simply couldn't get a ticket because they were in such high demand, began to watch the finals on television. High school basketball had now made it into people's homes. The game was truly on an upswing.

### **What Went Wrong? : The Decline of Indiana High School Basketball**

Without much debate, Plump's shot in 1954 is referred to as the most famous event in the history of Indiana high school basketball. For the decades following that fateful 15-foot jump shot, Milan's victory served as a flicker of hope for all the small schools in Indiana. Many of these schools believed that they too could win the state championship. Long after many states around the nation had gone to a multi-class tournament format, Indiana's famous "one-size-fits-all" single-class tournament lived on. Each and every school around the state, from the smallest to the largest, vied for state supremacy each March. Throughout the 1980s and early 1990s, Indiana's state tournament was still something that brought the entire state together. The tournament and its "one champion for one state" motto still served as the featured event each year.

Despite all the acclaim it was still receiving, the sport that was once as "Hoosier" as the citizens themselves was on the decline. Initially, the popularity of high school basketball declined gradually. Little by little the attention of Hoosiers was being drawn away from the game they once held so dear. At first, attendance at regular season games declined. Then, it became less and less common for communities to be identified by their basketball team. People simply didn't care about high school basketball as much as they used to. Hoosiers started rewriting their list of "things to do." Going to the local high

school basketball game was no longer the #1 option; it had become less appealing to the people of Indiana.

Next, something happened that most Hoosiers never thought possible. The state tournament started drawing fewer fans. What once drew packed gymnasiums throughout the four-week tournament began to feature empty seats. The game that was just recently king of Indiana was officially on the decline. When comparing tournament attendance data from 1983 to 1994 the disparities are glaring. The total number of fans attending the sectional in 1983 was 743,141, compared to 503,030 in 1994.<sup>36</sup> Comparing those same two years, we see that the regional in 1983 out attended the regional in 1994 by a count of 200,784 to 154,536.<sup>37</sup> And finally, the semi-state drew 88,456 fans in 1983, greatly outnumbering the 62,130 fans who attended in 1994.<sup>38</sup> To add insult to injury, during this time the state's population steadied at around 5.5 million people.<sup>39</sup> The drop in attendance was not the result of a decline in population, but the drop in attendance was a clear sign that the game was on the decline in the eyes of many Hoosiers.

Throughout the time period in which tournament attendance declined, a group of individuals in the state began clamoring for a multi-class state tournament. This group was comprised of small school principals who felt it was in their student-athletes' best interest to make a change to the single-class tournament.<sup>40</sup> The aura of Milan's miracle had begun to wear off on much of the state, as many of the small schools who once used

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<sup>36</sup> *Insight Broadband*, 12 Apr. 2007 <<http://home.insightbb.com/html-jsp/photoPicture.php?photoID=16-870&personID=11386>>.

<sup>37</sup> *Insight Broadband*, 12 Apr. 2007 <<http://home.insightbb.com/html-jsp/photoPicture.php?photoID=16-870&personID=11386>>.

<sup>38</sup> *Insight Broadband*, 12 Apr. 2007 <<http://home.insightbb.com/html-jsp/photoPicture.php?photoID=16-870&personID=11386>>.

<sup>39</sup> *Stats Indiana*, 12 Apr. 2007 <[http://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/PopTotals/historic\\_counts\\_state-s.html](http://www.stats.indiana.edu/population/PopTotals/historic_counts_state-s.html)>.

<sup>40</sup> Gildea 11.

Milan as an example, began to feel that it was impossible to realize their dreams (of winning a state championship) while playing against the state's big boys. What started as a whisper grew to a deafening yell in the mid-'90s. Supporters of class basketball said that a multi-class system "would provide more teams with the honor of being champions" and that it would be "the best thing for the students."<sup>41</sup> Traditions die hard though as many Hoosiers lashed out against class basketball. Some said that by introducing the new tournament the IHSAA would be dismantling "an 86-year-old Hoosier tradition."<sup>42</sup> Each side lobbied its case, but in the end, class basketball won the day. In March 1998, Indiana crowned four state champions for the first time in the history of Indiana high school basketball.

The new class basketball system was something that the state would just have to get used to. Instead of pairing all Indiana high schools together in an "all-comers" style tournament, the IHSAA took the entire list of high schools participating in basketball and separated them into four classes based on enrollment. The four classes (1A, 2A, 3A, and 4A) each consist of 25% of the total number of high schools, with Class 1A consisting of the smallest 25% of schools and Class 4A consisting of the largest 25%. This new system is set up to crown four class champions, allowing more schools than ever the opportunity to call themselves a 'state champion'. Class basketball gives smaller schools (classes 1A and 2A) a better chance to realize their dreams by not only giving them a better chance to win the state title, but more of a chance to win the sectionals, regionals, and semi-states as well. It is true that class basketball has achieved all that its supporters had hoped; more schools, in particular small schools, have won state titles since its inception in 1997.

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<sup>41</sup> *Celebrating Indiana* (Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1997), 41.

<sup>42</sup> *Celebrating Indiana* 43.

Indiana high school basketball historians often argue that the sport died when four teams cut down the nets in 1998. In fact, many say that this singular event killed our beloved game the moment it was passed by the IHSAA board of directors. I both agree and disagree with this theory. The evidence shows that high school basketball has been on the decline in Indiana since the 1970s. Of course, there were some moments when high school basketball appeared healthier than ever, but as a whole Indiana did not feel the same way about high school basketball in the 1980s and '90s as it did in the 1950s and '60s. The heyday of high school basketball has come and gone in the Hoosier state. It is my opinion that there are various factors that have contributed to the creation of the state of Indiana high school basketball today.

Indiana high school basketball was once the only show in town. As the main event for most communities, the game flourished. Packed gyms were the norm in Indiana, as larger and larger "labors of love" were built to keep up with the number of fans attending games. Hoosiers had a passion for the game of basketball; a passion complete with an undying faithfulness that spanned many winters. This passion was put to the test when other options for things to do were made available for Hoosier citizens. There were now other shows in town, other shows that could take Indiana's attention away from high school basketball.

One of the first options available was television. As mentioned earlier, television was utilized by the IHSAA to broadcast the state finals throughout the state in the mid-1950s.<sup>43</sup> This ploy was useful in delivering the finals to a wider audience, but the number of homes with a television at this time was very limited. In 1950, "only 9% of U.S.

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<sup>43</sup> Robertson 58.

households owned a television.”<sup>44</sup> Though this grew to 64% by 1955, many Hoosier homes were still left without television programming. The number of homes with televisions grew rapidly, and in 1965, “at least one TV was in 92.6% of U.S. households.”<sup>45</sup> Families could now spend nights together watching television. As something new and exciting, watching television became a popular option for many households.

Another attention grabbing change to Hoosier society that gained traction in the late-1960s was the growth in popularity and availability of professional sports. Baseball had been an American pastime since the late-19<sup>th</sup> century, but many Hoosiers had to follow their favorite team from a far via radio, newspaper, or the occasional weekend venture to Chicago (Cubs or White Sox), St. Louis (Cardinals), or Cincinnati (Reds). When combined with television, baseball was now at the fingertips of every Hoosier. Many Hoosiers had followed their favorite team for many years without actually seeing them play, but the emergence of television allowed fans to stay home and “see” them for the first time. Watching professional sports was yet another option offered by television in the 1960s and beyond.

In the professional basketball world, the Indiana Pacers first played in 1967.<sup>46</sup> Playing in the old American Basketball Association (ABA), the Pacers (located in Indianapolis) gave Indiana basketball fans one more team to cheer for. Winning ABA titles in 1970, ’72, and ’73, the success of the Pacers garnered the support of the

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<sup>44</sup> *National Institute on Media and the Family*, 14 Apr. 2007 <[http://www.mediafamily.org/facts/facts\\_histv.shtml](http://www.mediafamily.org/facts/facts_histv.shtml)>.

<sup>45</sup> *National Institute on Media and the Family*, 14 Apr. 2007 <[http://www.mediafamily.org/facts/facts\\_histv.shtml](http://www.mediafamily.org/facts/facts_histv.shtml)>.

<sup>46</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 14 Apr. 2007 <[http://www2.indystar.com/library/factfiles/sports/basketball/indiana\\_pacers/history.html](http://www2.indystar.com/library/factfiles/sports/basketball/indiana_pacers/history.html)>.



Indianapolis community and its surrounding areas.<sup>47</sup> High school basketball now had another basketball rival other than IU and Purdue.

Though television played a large role in diverting fans' attention away from high school basketball, and professional sports gave Hoosiers another outlet for their obsession with sports, the single largest factor that led to the decline in popularity of high school basketball was school consolidation. The number of schools participating in the state tournament went from 755 in 1955 to 411 in 1975.<sup>48</sup> Originating in the 1960s and 1970s, it has been said, "In many ways, the class basketball struggle of the 1990s was a result of the fight over consolidating Hoosier schools."<sup>49</sup> Small town schools, often with enrollments of fewer than 200 students, were being consolidated into "county school systems with enrollments of a thousand students or more."<sup>50</sup> This consolidation created "super" schools with huge enrollments, while fewer small schools remained. Consolidation created a stratification of schools that still exists today. There are simply more big schools than there ever have been, giving rise to the thought that the little guy no longer has a chance to win.

Consolidation created other problems as well. First introduced to improve "the quality of education in the state's hundreds of rural schools,"<sup>51</sup> the creation of large, better maintained school buildings full of highly qualified teachers was meant to replace small rural schools that had many structural problems and a small faculty less qualified to teach.<sup>52</sup> The introduction of such large schools came with a cost: some four-hundred rural

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<sup>47</sup> *Indianapolis Star*, 14 Apr. 2007 <[http://www2.indystar.com/library/factfiles/sports/basketball/indiana\\_pacers/history.html](http://www2.indystar.com/library/factfiles/sports/basketball/indiana_pacers/history.html)>.

<sup>48</sup> Schwomeyer 236 and 316.

<sup>49</sup> *Play On* 101.

<sup>50</sup> *Play On* 102.

<sup>51</sup> *Play On* 104.

<sup>52</sup> *Play On* 104.

Indiana schools have been the victim of school consolidation since 1959.<sup>53</sup> Gone are many of the school buildings and gymnasiums of the past. Gone with them are the tradition and community identity that they once sparked. High school basketball was at a fevered pitch in these locales, where “nicknames reflected the community’s livelihood.”<sup>54</sup> Some of these nicknames, the “Bedford Stonecutters,” “Stinesville Quarry Boys,” “Monon Railroaders,” and “Holland Dutchmen” gave identity to the small community they served. They also told the rest of the state the story of these dots on a map. With school consolidation some communities lost their identity all together, never to regain what had made them special and unique.

Consolidation disturbed many Hoosiers, who for so long had followed their local high school basketball team. During tournament play these small schools faced off for sectional titles, sectionals that often consisted only of teams from that particular county. Games were fierce and rivalries were heated. With the advent of consolidation, these rivalries were squashed, and the sectionals were now being played between schools encompassing a larger geographical area of the state.

Pairing small schools together to form one large school also sparked much angst between individuals. In Huntington County, eleven such small schools were consolidated into one “super” high school (Huntington North) in 1966.<sup>55</sup> This consolidation didn’t happen without an uproar, as “[c]onsolidation divided families . . . The president of our school board, his brother and their families, they just completely split because his brother

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<sup>53</sup> *Play On* 106.

<sup>54</sup> *Play On* 106.

<sup>55</sup> *Play On* 103.

was so opposed to consolidation.”<sup>56</sup> In the school itself, there was also much in-fighting, as students from once rival schools now struggled to properly integrate.

My grandfather, now deceased, was a graduate of Roanoke, one of those small rural Huntington County schools. He was also a longtime teacher at the consolidated Huntington North High School. He once told me that many students refused to go to school because they didn’t want to mix with their once hated rivals. “It took a long time for students to get over the change,” he said, “but it took even longer for the people of the county to do the same.” Like Huntington County, the other ninety-one counties in Indiana experienced problems with consolidation in the 1960s and 1970s. Small communities seemed to have lost their niche in society forever.

Consolidation caused many problems in Hoosier society, but it especially hurt high school basketball. Indiana high school basketball was cut pretty deeply by this change, as many communities lost their high school and thus their identity. What were once places to stop for Friday night’s game were now just signs that passers-by saw on their way to someplace bigger. Rural Indiana was losing its claim to high school basketball.

Consolidation also caused other problems for high school basketball. The sport lost popularity during this time, as the IHSAA began sanctioning other sports for boys. The impetus for such expansion was the consolidation of schools. In *Play On*, the IHSAA cites larger schools for the drive behind the growing number of sanctioned sports. “Fewer but larger high schools in Indiana after 1970 meant that far more students could participate in athletics.”<sup>57</sup> Larger school sizes, more teachers, and larger and better

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<sup>56</sup> *Play On* 103.

<sup>57</sup> *Play On* 115.

facilities led to the introduction of more sports for high school students. Not only did the IHSAA sanction tennis and baseball in the late 1960s, but more schools offered track, swimming, golf, and wrestling. Sports that had once been played at a select few large schools were now being played throughout the state.<sup>58</sup> High school basketball now had many rivals.

The major rival to high school basketball in Indiana was football. Once prominent mainly in the large urban areas of the state (where very few schools, proportionately, were located prior to consolidation), football was not sanctioned as an IHSAA tournament sport until 1973. Even before it became a tournament sport, "Football was becoming increasingly popular by the early 1960s . . . in 1962, Indianapolis Tech and Indianapolis Cathedral played for the city championship before nearly 14,000 fans at Victory Field."<sup>59</sup> Requiring a large number of participants to field a team, football prevented many prospective basketball players from honing their skills in the summer and fall. The sport also kept many of these athletes from playing basketball all together. Another by-product of the introduction of football was the fanfare it "stole" from high school basketball. No longer did barber shops exclusively talk about basketball. They were now incorporating football and other sports into the discussion.

Another major change in the high school sports world that aided in the decline in popularity of high school basketball was the introduction of girls' sports. Prior to 1972, all IHSAA sanctioned sports were for males. The introduction of girls' sports was a huge departure from the past, when women were basically forbid from playing organized sports. These sentiments changed in 1972 when the United States Congress passed Title

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<sup>58</sup> *Play On* 115.

<sup>59</sup> *Play On* 123.

IX, which said, “No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in . . . any education programs or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”<sup>60</sup> The popularity of girls’ sports had been on the rise for some time. Since the 1950s girls had participated in sports outside of mainstream society. With the advent of Title IX, the road was paved for high school girls to participate in IHSAA sanctioned sports. The introduction of girls’ sports took much of the attention off of the boys and placed it on the girls. High school basketball was no longer just *boys’* basketball, girls were playing it too.

The introduction of more boys’ sports as well as the introduction of womens’ sports caused a great change in the importance of high school basketball to Hoosiers. Once an only child of sorts, high school basketball was now one of many, garnering less attention than it had in days past. The change in the high school sports scene changed the feeling among some Hoosiers about their once beloved game. According to *Play On*, “It is undeniable that the all-encompassing aura of boys basketball has faded in the past 30 years as the IHSAA member schools fostered a broader, far more participatory version of high school athletics for both genders.”<sup>61</sup> With these changes, high school basketball would have to deal with sharing the spotlight.

Each of these factors aided in some way to the steady decline in popularity of high school basketball. Coupled with a rapid growth in technology, including computers, CDs, and DVDs in the 1980s and ’90s, they have led to a change in focus among the citizens of Indiana. Hoosiers, once so ardently focused on high school basketball, were now looking elsewhere to get their kicks. Societal growth in general has been the largest

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<sup>60</sup> *Play On* 129.

<sup>61</sup> *Play On* 126.

contributor to the deterioration of “Hoosier Hysteria.” Television programs, the World Wide Web, movies, video games, and other advancements have given Indiana citizens more and more reasons to stay out of the gym.

The single greatest change to the sport since its beginning in 1911, of course, was the inception of class basketball. Beginning in the 1997-1998 season, the change to class basketball caused great debate among Hoosiers, nearly splitting Indiana’s citizens down the middle. In 1996, the IHSAA surveyed 332 member schools and found that “167 reported their fans supported a multiple-class format in girls and boys basketball and 159 schools reported their fans prefer a one-class system.”<sup>62</sup> When brought to a vote in that same year, “the board voted 12-5”<sup>63</sup> to adopt a single-class tournament format. The debate over class basketball was extremely heated from the beginning. Those against class basketball wanted to preserve the tradition of the past, while those in favor of class basketball wanted a fair playing field for all participating teams. Many around the state are still upset at the changes made in the late ’90s, while others feel it was a necessary maneuver considering the society we live in.

Those against class basketball (myself included) argue that a multiple class tournament goes against everything high school sports stand for. *Sports Illustrated* remarked about the loss of the Hoosier tradition by saying, “high school sports are supposed to be about dreams, and that’s why tradition should not be discarded for the sake of handing out a few more trophies.”<sup>64</sup> Many Indiana high school basketball legends have also remarked about the loss of tradition. John Wooden and Bobby Plump are two such legends. When discussing class basketball, Wooden displays his dislike by saying he

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<sup>62</sup> *Celebrating Indiana* 41.

<sup>63</sup> *Play On* 159.

<sup>64</sup> *Celebrating Indiana* 43.

is “disappointed that Indiana has abandoned its historic and virtually unique tradition of single-class basketball . . . Certainly, our young people need goals that they can realistically reach. But what are the goals?”<sup>65</sup> Plump’s reaction is a bit more pointed, as he has been a strong opponent of class basketball ever since it was first introduced. Plump forecasts the future of the game by saying, “The interest is going to decline. We’ve heard from most of the other states around . . . that when you go to a class system . . . there isn’t interest. The attendance doesn’t follow it.”<sup>66</sup>

Plump’s statement is backed up adequately by statistics. When comparing the attendance for the state tournament during its last year, 1996-1997, with the first year of class basketball, 1997-1998, one finds striking differences in the data. Though the sectionals and semi-states are somewhat similar in the number of attendees (491,259 in 1997 sectionals compared to 430,303 in 1998 sectionals)<sup>67</sup>, the regionals and state finals in 1998 yielded drastically lower attendance numbers than the previous season (under the single-class format). The regionals brought in 71,384 fans in 1998, less than half of the 168,715 from the previous year.<sup>68</sup> The state finals were even more glaring, as the state gathered for the first time to crown four separate state champions. Only 27,295 made it to Indianapolis that year, a far cry from the 55,125 that made it the year before.<sup>69</sup>

The state finals attracted fewer fans than usual in 1998, the inaugural year of the multi-class state finals. As a result, the cavernous RCA Dome only lasted two years as the host of the class basketball state finals (until 2000 when the finals moved to Conseco

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<sup>65</sup> Gildea xiii.

<sup>66</sup> *Celebrating Indiana* 43.

<sup>67</sup> *Insight Broadband*, 12 Apr. 2007 <<http://home.insightbb.com/html-jsp/photoPicture.php?photoID=16-870&personID=11386>>.

<sup>68</sup> *Insight Broadband*, 12 Apr. 2007 <<http://home.insightbb.com/html-jsp/photoPicture.php?photoID=16-870&personID=11386>>.

<sup>69</sup> *Insight Broadband*, 12 Apr. 2007 <<http://home.insightbb.com/html-jsp/photoPicture.php?photoID=16-870&personID=11386>>.

Fieldhouse, the home of the NBA's Indiana Pacers). The dome (previously the Hoosier Dome) had been the home of the state finals since 1990, when Hoosier legend Damon Bailey led Bedford North-Lawrence to the state championship in front of a single session, world high school basketball record crowd of 41,046 fans. At that time, high school basketball appeared healthy and strong, but with more and more changes to society, and with the advent of class basketball, the game was weaker than ever. As a result of declining attendance numbers, the IHSAA moved the finals to a much smaller venue in 2000 to make up for the money they were losing by holding the finals in the dome.

Despite Bailey's best efforts, high school basketball is decaying in front of every Hoosier's eyes. For various reasons the sport is not as popular as it once was. Class basketball can surely stake some claim to this phenomenon, because without it Indiana high school basketball would still be unique and chock full of tradition. Attendance numbers continue to be down at the state finals, as well as throughout the state tournament. But we cannot place all of the blame on class basketball. There are simply too many other things to do these days, pulling the collective attention of Hoosiers away from the game they once loved so much. The people of Indiana are moving at a faster pace today, not stopping long enough to witness their collective past. High school basketball is now taking a back seat to everyday life. Just a few decades ago, it *was life*. Unfortunately, we will never go back to the way it was in its heyday. Really, we can only hope that it doesn't get any worse.

### **Hope for the Future: The 2006-2007 Muncie Central Bearcats**



In 2007, I again found myself in a difficult situation similar to the one I experienced as a player four years earlier. This time, my predicament came as an assistant coach for the Muncie Central Bearcats during the 4A regional championship at Marion. Down by eleven points, our prospects looked pretty bleak heading into the second half. Everything just seemed stacked against us: we were playing on the road, we weren't able to stop them defensively, we couldn't hit shots, and we simply didn't seem to have the bullets necessary to win on this night. Unfortunately, for us, this was the regional championship game, the worst possible time to be drawing a blank. Undeterred by our seemingly insurmountable odds, eventual Indiana All-Star Ben Botts went on a scoring frenzy, erupting for twenty-six second half points, the last of which drew us within two with less than a minute to play. Applying full court pressure, we forced a turnover and finished the play with a lay-up. A tie was achieved! Bearcat nation was on their collective feet, for the #1 Muncie Central Bearcats had just clawed their way back to a stand still with their hated rival, the Marion Giants. It was a new game, and all the momentum seemed to be on our side.

That is the good part of the story. The rest, well, it isn't so good. Holding the ball for what would amount to be the last good shot of the game, junior Giant standout Julius Mays drove the lane and hit a tough fade away with three seconds remaining. Calling a timeout, we drew up a play to get Botts open on a streak, but Marion covered it up and senior Tom Freeman's half-court prayer clanked off the iron to end the game. 64-62. Bearcats lose. Dream season over. #1 team defeated.

The locker room scene following the loss was undeniably the saddest I have ever experienced. As an assistant coach for the Bearcats during the '07 season, I tried to

console the players. It was next to impossible, as dreams of a state championship had just been dashed. As I leaned against the wall, fighting back tears of my own, I couldn't help but smile inside. Demented, I know, but I couldn't help but think about a few characteristics I had seemingly linked with high school basketball and how in that instant they were dashed as well.

This was Indiana, where I had basically written off high school basketball. Outside factors had killed the game. Class basketball had killed the game. People simply didn't care anymore, right? Wrong, I thought on that cool March night. I had just witnessed one of the best games in the history of the state tournament, class basketball or not. In front of a standing-room-only crowd of 7,000, Ben Botts had just led the Bearcats all the way back from defeat, only to lose it in the final seconds. The crowd was on its feet for most of the game, as its make-up was nearly half-Giant fans and half-Bearcat fans. The crowd noise was deafening with every basket made. And as we made our final run late in the game (down eight with two minutes remaining!), the entirety of Bill Green Arena was in complete pandemonium. The game was simply something special.

The experience of coaching the 2007 Bearcats left a lasting mark on me. Sure, I have written this paper discussing how and why Indiana high school basketball has been in steady decline over the past thirty to forty years, but what I witnessed in that locker room, on that night, is something that will stick with me forever. Coaches were crying, players were crying, and it was all over a game? I couldn't help myself but cry as well, for what I was involved in was Hoosier Hysteria at its best. It was coaches and players alike, striving for the ultimate prize, putting it all on the line just to hoist that championship trophy in the air and say, "We are the State Champions!"

It was not to be for the Bearcats in 2007. It wasn't for a lack of effort or time invested, though. Hours upon hours of sweat had been poured for that one chance. In my eyes, Botts and his fellow 'cats were no less "Hoosier" than the "Wonder Five," Wooden, Plump, or Robertson. This is a different era, of course, but I learned on that night that high school basketball is alive and well in the state of Indiana. Although the masses aren't consumed by the game any more, there are glimpses of the past. If only we just stop and observe for a moment we can see these treasures of times gone by. What the Bearcats did for me in '07 was restore hope. A hope that for decades to come Indiana high school basketball produces athletes who care about the game as much as the Bearcats of '07. Author William Gildea best forecasts the 21<sup>st</sup> century for Indiana high school basketball when he writes, "[h]igh school administrators may divide basketball and their tournament into classes, but in Indiana there's still no keeping a boy from playing the game that matters most, and no denying their elders the memories of hallowed tournament times past."<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> Gildea 237.

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